

Flying High by witchy_weirdo

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Billy and Steve find love again.

One-shot based on the song Flying High by Jem.

Flying High

Author's Note:

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Everyday he looked into her eyes, he saw the one person that meant so much to him. The one he was in love with and would die for. The one whom he had to leave three and a half years ago all because of another person, his daughter.

Billy Hargrove was a momma to the cutest three year old in the entire world, Lillian Maxine Hargrove. He fell pregnant with her a few weeks after he and his now ex-boyfriend, Steve Harrington, made love in Harrington's bedroom on one of their many date nights together alone in the Loch Nora mansion.

Steve doesn't know Lily exists and for Billy's sake, he wants to keep it that way, at least until she's old enough to understand why he's not in her life.

Billy lives with his daughter and Max in California, he had the baby there after Neil made them move back when he found out Billy was pregnant at just nineteen.

He had to say goodbye to the new life he made in Hawkins and return back to the west coast, only this time with a little life inside of him.

The first few months of his pregnancy were rough, he had already graduated high school so he was working two jobs to save up for an apartment and prepare for the baby. He didn't want to live under his father's roof anymore and ran himself rampant doing everything and putting it under his belt.

It was hard for him to adjust to his body changing, his hormones

being all over the place, and just everything not being to his liking. But he wasn't going to kill his baby all because he didn't like how he looked. His body was keeping them safe and it was his job to make sure he welcomes a healthy baby into this chaotic world.

When Billy was well into his second trimester, Susan and Neil passed in a car wreck so it was just him and Max now. He had become Max's legal guardian and had a baby on the way so they did what they had to and did it together.

Max was there for her birth and helped her brother through it all, which is why Billy gave her name as his daughter's middle name because she's been such an important person in his life, plus she's named after his mother.

Billy and Max are still loosely living on their own in California. He has a steady job and does online courses while Max is enrolled at the local high school in the beach town they live in. While the two were gone during the day, Lily was usually babysat by his aunt who's a retired teacher and has been helping them get by, occasionally.

They've had a routine down since Lily turned two and it's stuck ever since. It was their life and neither of them didn't have plans to change it any time soon.

It was another beautiful afternoon in sunny Californ-IA. Billy had just gotten off work and was on his way to pick up Lily, but first he had to swing by the market and get something to make for dinner.

Billy drove his Camaro into the grocery store parking lot and found a spot to park. He left his car and locked it on his way inside the building.

He grabbed a small basket from the front and went through the produce section first to see what he wanted. He grabbed some veggies knowing how much Lily loved carrots and broccoli whenever he made stir fry so that was on the menu for tonight.

After he got all the vegetables he needed, Billy went to look over the meat and grabbed some chicken and steak strips then had gone down an aisle to find the Udon Noodles they all love some much.

While skimming the aisle for what he needed, he saw someone standing there as well just out of the corner of his eye. He paid no mind to it at first, but then the person had moved a certain way and he only knew one person that moved like that and stuck out their hip like a diva

Billy looked up and couldn't believe his eyes were staring at none other than Steve Harrington. He shook his head and thought maybe it was just someone who looked like him. Then he wondered why he was all the way out in California.

He wasn't sure if it was Steve or not so he grabbed the noodles and tried to make a run for it, only to be stopped.

"Billy?"

He mental slaps himself in the face for not getting away fast enough, then turns around and is face to face with his ex-boyfriend. "Steve, hi."

"Oh my god." Steve went over and gave him a hug. "Long time no see. How've you been?"

"Good." Billy answers and notices that Steve's changed. He seemed more dainty rather than his normal idiotic self. "Shocking seeing you all the way out here."

"Yeah," Steve nods.

It was awkward between them because they haven't seen each other in almost four years and used to be madly in love with each other, now it was like they hardly knew who they were. Both were surprised to see each other out in California, especially Billy because he was basically forced to run away from his one true love who was now standing in front of him at the supermarket.

They stood there across from each other for a few long seconds and as Billy was about to say bye to leave, Steve stops him again when someone approaches them.

"Billy, wait." Steve smiles and grabs the guy's hand, pulling him closer to them. "This is my fiance, Gage. Gage this is an old friend of

mine from high school, Billy Hargrove.”

“Oh, it’s uh nice to meet you Billy.” Gage says and shakes his hand.

“You too.” Billy shook his head and plastered a fake smile onto his face. Fiance?! God Billy hated that Steve was with someone else but it was clear Steve had moved on from him and found love with another guy. “Uh, congratulations by the way.” He adds, glancing down at the ring on Steve’s finger.

“Thank you.” Steve grins and Gage wraps an arm around his waist, pulling him into his side. “We’re spending a few weeks out here with Gage’s family because we’re in the middle of planning our wedding.” Billy felt like he was gonna puke like Linda Blair and do a full 360.

“Oh, how nice.” He tells them, with that same fake smile on his face.

“Yeah, hey since I’ll be around maybe we should get coffee or lunch sometime to catch up?”

“Um, sure.” Billy awkwardly agrees then realizes maybe he has a chance to win Steve back, but then again maybe not. “Here.” They go about exchanging phone numbers then Billy leaves with a quick goodbye and pays for his items before heading out to his car.

Billy sits in his car for a few minutes, trying to wrap his head around all that just happened.

His ex was in California, engaged, and happily in love with a new and very wealthy man. He couldn’t possibly understand how Steve acted like nothing happened between them. It was like he didn’t even acknowledge that Billy left without a trace, but maybe he figured it had to do with his father since Max went to and wrote letters to her friends letting them know they relocated...again.

Billy didn’t have time to keep thinking about Steve and needed a distraction so he left the store and drove to his aunt’s house to pick up his daughter.

He runs in quick to grab her and thanks his aunt before they leave to head home.

“How was your day today, baby?” He asks and glances at his daughter through the rearview mirror.

“Goo, momma.” Lily replies, happily kicking her legs from where she sat in her booster seat.

“Yeah? What did you and Auntie Gigi do today?”

“We eated lunch outsigh and payed dress up, momma.”

“You did? Well, it sounds like you had a good day with Auntie Gigi then.”

“Ya!”

Billy smiles at her again through the mirror and the rest of the car ride stayed quiet until they got to their house.

When they get home, Billy carries in the groceries while Lily follows him, carrying her princess bag that she took everywhere with her. It was filled with stuff she needed for ‘Just in case’ situations. Like an extra pair of clothes, underwear, tooth brush, toothpaste, and a few other things. Inside, Max was already there working on homework and Lily gladly ran to her other auntie to give her a hug.

“Hey munchkin!” Max smiled and lifted the younger girl onto her lap. “Did you have a good day?”

“Uh-huh.” Lily nods and goes on and on about the day she had with Auntie Gigi while Billy got to work on dinner, hearing the story all over again.

Later, Billy put Lily to bed then went into Max’s room. He knocked before entering and sat on her bed while she read through a comic book. This was usually how they ended their nights, just sitting and talking about whatever.

“What’s up?” Max asks, while invested in her comic book.

“You will never believe who I saw at the store today.”

“Steve Harrington?”

Billy's eyes widen, "You already know?"

"Wait seriously?!" Now her eyes grew wide as her brother nodded his head. "Oh my god."

"Yep. He was at the store and get this, he's getting married. The kid probably works for his daddy so..."

Max watches her brother sigh, almost defeated. "How does this make you feel? I mean, I know you must feel some type of way about it all."

"Well, I guess I am kinda jealous." He answers with a shrug. "But he's moved from me and I've moved on from him. Plus, even if it did work out in another world, I don't have time for a relationship right now. I mean I have to worry about you and Lily and-"

"-And nothing." Max adds. "We're fine Billy. Maybe it'll be nice to get back into the dating world, you know? Find someone as great as Steve, maybe even better."

"Yeah." He heaves a sigh and runs a hand through his hair. "Well thanks for the chat." He yawns and gets off her bed. "G'night Max."

"Night." She smiles as her brother leaves her bedroom and heads into his own room ready for sleep.

-Two Weeks Later-

Billy didn't know why he agreed to this but he did and now he was sitting in the booth at the local coffee shop waiting for Steve to arrive.

They had been texting on and off since they're run in and had invited him to meet up for coffee sometime, well today was sometime.

While waiting, Billy sipped his iced coffee and heard the door chimes, pulling his attention to the front of the cafe. Steve walked in and sent a small smile and wave to his ex then got in line to order.

"Sorry I'm a little late." He apologizes. "It's been pretty hectic today. Gage and I have an appointment to look at flower arrangements

afterwards and it's just," He sighs. "A lot."

Billy nods replying with a, "That's alright. We all have busy lives."

"Yeah, yeah. So how've you been?" Steve asks.

"I've been okay. It's just Max and I now, um Neil and Susan died in a car wreck a few years so it's just been us for a while."

"Oh, that must've been hard no?"

"Yes and no. I mean you knew how much of an asshole my father was so honestly I didn't mind but I felt bad for Max because she lost her mom and her dad's been MIA so I stepped up and took over guardianship."

"Well that was nice of you." Steve smiles and sips his coffee. "I never saw you as the "fatherly" type but I guess if you're making it work then that's all the matters."

Little did Steve know, Billy wasn't exactly a father figure.

"How's Max doing otherwise? She still in school? She must be in what high school now huh?"

"Yep. She's a sophomore now. She's been doing well, getting good grades, and has a lot of friends. All that teen stuff we all know so well." Billy tells him and watches Steve nod as he listens. "I'm happy she's doing good you know? We didn't have the best relationship back in Indiana but all we have is each other so we make it work."

"Well I'm glad to hear that. I miss her. I'd love to see her one day, maybe soon?"

"Yeah, I'll pass it by her and see." Billy answers. "Tell me about Gage. How did you two meet?" He wasn't sure why he was so curious about Steve's relationship with his fiance but maybe he wanted to know.

"Well we met in Chicago. We both just finished our undergrad and he was actually a friend of my roommate. We had run into each other at a party and ended up talking on the balcony of their apartment while drinking cheap wine. After that he asked me out on a date and I just

fell in love with him.

Billy wanted to groan from the short details but he was respectful and actively listened as Steve shared his story.

“He proposed a little after we graduated and we’ve been in the midst of planning our wedding. He’s also going for his Master’s in Psychology probably next fall and I’m so proud of him.”

Billy smiles seeing how happy Steve was and couldn’t help but feel happy for him. Sure he hated that Steve was with someone else but seeing that smile again just filled Billy with so much warmth.

The two of them continue sharing stories and catching up as they finish their coffees.

Billy then pulls out his phone seeing the time. “Crap!”

“Everything okay?” Steve asks.

“I have to go pick up my dau-, I have to go pick up my aunt’s dog from the groomers.” He says and hurries out of the booth. “I’m sorry to have to leave like this but I can’t be late.” With that, Billy was gone and Steve was left alone.

Steve had finished the last of his coffee and gotten up from the booth. He saw the wallet on Billy’s seat and grabbed it, opening it to make sure it was his. “Dammit.” He runs outside and tries to catch Billy but he was already gone.

“Oh well.” He sighs and takes it with him because he couldn’t be late for his appointment with his fiancée.

Billy was hurrying across town to his aunt’s house. He knew she had plans and tried to get there on time so he didn’t keep her from what she had to do.

He pulls up to her house and aggressively knocks on the door, out of breath.

His aunt opens the door and smiles at him. “Hey honey. Everything all right?” She asks, noticing he struggled to catch his breath.

"I didn't...want to...be late..." He pants.

"Oh don't worry sweetheart. It's no problem." She tells him. "Would you like some water?"

"No." He shakes his head. "I'm fine. Where's Lily?"

"She's just finishing up her lunch. Come on in."

Billy follows his aunt into her house and finds his daughter sitting at the table, eating her mac and cheese.

"Momma!" She got up and ran to Billy, hugging around his legs.

"Hi baby girl. Billy smiles and kisses the top of her head while rubbing a hand along her back. "Go finish eating okay?"

The three year old nods and sits back in her seat while Billy sits down in the other chair and lets her finish her food.

She declared she was done not long after that and took her juice to-go in her sippy cup. They said bye to their aunt and thanked her before heading out to the car.

Billy gets her buckled into her booster seat before he drives them back home.

Back at their house, Lily was settled in the living sitting at the coffee table coloring while watching tv.

Billy was sitting on the couch scrolling through his phone with his arm over his head, just chilling.

He was going to order some stuff for Lily since Summer was coming and she needed new bathing suits and clothes.

When he went to go order all the stuff, he reached in his pocket for his wallet but he couldn't find it.

He gets up from the couch and checks to see if it fell in the cushions then he backtracks his steps checking all around the house, his car, her bag. It was gone.

“Shit.” He mutters under his breath and realizes he either left it at the cafe or lost it. He knew that he needed to cancel his cards, so he got out his phone and called the bank.

After he called the restaurant and asked if they had seen it. They told him it wasn't there and brought up by someone to which they apologized for not being of any more assistance before their call disconnected.

Since it was Friday, they usually ordered pizza so dinner was on Max tonight. Billy promised he'd pay her back but she wasn't worried about it, especially after all her step-brother's did for her this was the least she could do.

After dinner, they all went out to the beach and spent the rest of the evening by the shore.

They needed to decompress and the best way to do it was to sit on the beach and watch the sunset together. It was a family tradition, even though they had a rather unconventional family.

Max held Lily's hand while they stuck their feet in the water while Billy sat up some more and watched the girls together.

The little girl loved exploring the beach and getting in the water. She practically had salt water in her veins thanks to Billy having grown up at the beach many many years ago.

“Momma wook!” She splashed the water up into the air and smiled as the droplets landed on the sand.

“I see baby girl!” Billy smiles back at her. He then gets up and joins them at the water. “Water feels good.”

“Yeah.” Max agrees.

The three of them stayed with their feet in the water until the sun had set and the water got cold.

Lily grew tired and as soon as they sat back down on the sand, she fell asleep in Billy's arms.

So it was just him and Max, the only ones awake again, staring out ahead of them as the waves crashed along the shore.

It was quiet until Billy had told her what was on his mind.

“I think I’m still in love with Steve.” He says and waits for Max’s shocked reaction but was surprised at her response.

“I know.” She simply states and he cocks a brow up. “I was wondering if you were gonna figure it out for yourself.”

Billy nudges his step-sister with a smirk.

“Well then,” They both laugh. “Even if I did want to get back together with him I can’t because he’s getting married.”

“Yep. He’s getting married.” Max confirms. “Our Steve is all grown up.

“Mhm.” Billy knowingly hums.

Deep down he wished it was him Steve was getting married to and not Gage. But he could only wish and fantasize what wasn’t his reality.

-Next Day-

Lily was up early and went to go lay with Billy for a little while then they both went downstairs around 9:15.

He made her some oatmeal with blueberries and made himself some coffee.

While the two of them were sitting at the table together, there was a knock at their front door.

“Who dat momma?” Lily asks with a mouthful of mushy oatmeal and berries.

“I don’t know.” He says as he gets up. “Stay here.” He tells her.

Billy goes to answer the door and Steve was standing there with a

smile on his face.

“Steve?”

“Billy, hey! Sorry to come here so early but you left this at the place yesterday.” He holds out Billy’s wallet which Billy gladly takes.

“Oh my god! I thought I lost it! Thank you!” He exclaims and opens the door wider.

By doing this, Steve sees Billy’s body and it sure has changed since the last time he saw him. Billy no longer had his toned body, instead he had a little baby fat from his pregnancy and pale stretch marks littered his abdomen.

Steve doesn’t question it and instead makes small talk with Billy.

“Was I interrupting anything?” He asks since Billy didn’t have a shirt on so he figured he may have been sleeping.

“No, no. We’ve just been up eating breakfast.” Billy says then feels a tug on his pj pants. He looked down and Lily was there, looking up at her momma.

“Momma I got go da bafroom.” She says.

“Okay honey, momma be there in a second.” He tells her then looks back up at Steve who ducked his head down to see the young girl. “Would you excuse me? I have to take her to the bathroom. You can come in if you’d like.” He says to Steve.

Steve didn’t deny his offer and had stepped into Billy’s home while he was off assisting his daughter. He was shocked that Billy had a kid but again doesn’t question anything and stays quiet.

While he’s waiting he looks around at the place and sees Max’s skateboard sitting by the front door along with a pile of shoes on a shoe rack and there was a bunch of drawings and painting and crafts that Lily made as well as pictures of her with Billy or just her or some of her with Billy and Max around Christmas time. Steve can’t help but smile at all of them and can see they’re a happy little family.

A few minutes later, Billy comes out with his daughter and she accidentally bumps into Steve on her way to the table.

“Oooh.”

“Careful Lily.” Billy warns.

“Sowwy mister.” She apologizes.

“That’s okay sweetheart.” He tells her and smiles as she carries on into the kitchen. He couldn’t believe Billy had a kid, like a miniature girl version of his ex. It was weird but cool.

“So you have a kid?” Steve questions. “Is she like biologically yours or?” Billy’s brows furrow forward. “I-I mean I know you’ve mentioned that you’re a carrier so I didn’t know.”

“Oh um, it was a one night stand.” Billy says. He completely forgot that he and Steve had talked about having kids someday. They always saw each other together in life so they both got tested to see if that carried that gene and Billy’s came back positive.

After that, they knew they wanted to have kids but planned to do it after marriage. Well, the surely didn’t go as planned.

“Does h-her father know?” Steve asks. He knew he was possibly stepping over boundaries because he saw Billy tense from his question.

“Her father doesn’t know about her and he won’t. We’re better off without him and don’t need him in our life.”

“Right...right I’m sorry for asking. It was none of my business.”

“I’m sorry.” Billy then apologizes with a sigh. “I’m just very protective of her, that’s all.”

“I think it’s sweet.” Steve grins and Billy slightly blushes. “What’s her name?”

“Lily.” He replies and thinking her momma called her, the three year old ran over to Billy. “Oh I didn’t call you honey. I was just telling

my friend your name.” He says and picks her up, setting her on his hip. “Lily this is Steve, Steve this is my daughter Lily.”

“Hi Lily.” Steve keeps smiling at her and she goes shy, hiding her face in Billy’s neck. “Aww, did I do something wrong?” He worriedly asks. “She’s just shy.”

Steve nods and watches Billy kiss the girl on her cheek before setting her down to go finish her breakfast.

Down the hall a door opened and Max came out, hair a mess, pjs all wrinkled, and drool evident on her chin. She made her way to the kitchen and didn’t expect they’d have company so early in the morning.

“Steve!” She gasps and gives the slender man a hug. “What are you doing here?!”

“Well your brother left his wallet at the cafe yesterday so I came here to drop it off.” He says and the redhead smiles. “It’s good to see you, Max.”

“It’s good to see you too!” She happily exclaims. “Oh congrats on the engagement by the way. I’m so happy for you.”

“Thank you.” He sighs and looks at both Max and Billy feeling like old times again. “You know I would love for you to meet my fiancé, Gage. I’ve told him so much about the party and all and I know he’s been wanting to meet some of them. Why don’t you guys come over for dinner tomorrow night?”

“Oh, uh, I don’t know. We don’t want to impose on his family and all.”

“You’ll be my guests.” Steve assures them. “I would really like for you two to come, plus I wouldn’t have to be so nervous because his parents kinda freak me out.” He admits.

“What?” Billy chuckles. “Are they like aliens or something?” He asks then immediately regrets making fun of Steve’s future in-laws.

Steve chuckles back. “No, no. They’re just uptight and very posh. You

thought my parents were bad, well they're worse so maybe having you there will be good, ya know?"

Billy looks at Max and she shrugs then he lets out a quiet sigh. "I guess. What time should we be there?"

"Six." Steve confirms with a radiant grin.

"Okay. Would you like some coffee or anything?" Billy asks.

"No thank you. I'm meeting Gage for brunch with one of our college buddies. I should get going because I don't want to keep them waiting."

"Alright, well thank you for bringing my wallet back."

"No problem. I'll see you guys tomorrow?"

"Yep. Six o'clock we'll be there."

"Perfect." With that Steve leaves the house and they watch him drive away down the street.

Max and Billy then go into the kitchen and while she was toasting herself a bagel, Billy had leaned on the counter beside her.

"What should I do?" He asks in a low voice. He didn't want Lily to know about tomorrow night or about Steve in general but his plans were foiling right in front of him.

"Well we're gonna go to dinner without her so that he doesn't question anything else. Then we'll go from there."

"Good plan." He nods.

"I am a good planner." She sarcastically states, batting her lashes at her brother.

"Oh shut up."

Billy and Max had just dropped off Lily with Gigi and were one their

way to dinner with Steve and his fiancé's family.

Billy had been dreading going while Max remained positive and reminded her brother that if he's uncomfortable she'll make something up and they can leave.

So they put on their best outfits, jeans and some "fancy" shirt or top and hit the road.

Once they were almost there and Billy felt like he was going to throw up yet again because he didn't want to be in the same place as Steve's fiancé, or his family for that matter, but again he wanted to be respectful and knew him going made Steve happy so he was doing it for Steve.

They drove down to Bel-Air and drove through the iron gates that were in front of the neighborhood.

When they arrive, Billy takes a look at the place, disgusted while Max's jaw falls open as they stare at this palace.

Inside the house, Steve sees Billy's Camaro sitting next to the fancy cars Gage's family drove. He stood there watching them from the window and felt his fiancé's arms wrap around his waist then he's pulled into a warm chest.

"Is that them?" Gage asks.

"Yes." Steve answers and turns his neck to look at his fiancé. "Please be nice."

Gage rolls his eyes at that request. He was already mad that Steve invited his ex over for dinner but he knew he needed to be good. "I promise I'll behave." He says and gives Steve a kiss.

Max and Billy approach the front door and he nervously rings the doorbell. They were both still looking around the place as the door was opened by Gage.

"Hello." He smiles, perfect pearls flashing in the sunlight. "Come on in, dinner's just about ready." He says and waves at them follow him.

They walked into the foyer and the entire interior of the home could pass for a castle. It was huge and beautiful, very renaissance like but still very modern.

Gage closes the door behind them and Steve comes in from the other room, smiling at his two guests.

“Billy, Max, hi!” He gives them both a hug then goes to stand with his fiancé. “I’m so glad you could make it. Where’s Lily?” He asks.

“She’s with my aunt. I didn’t think she’d like coming so I didn’t want to force her to come.”

“Oh, well that’s okay. Maybe another time then?”

Billy hums and nods his head. “You are a beautiful home, Gage.”

“Thank you.” Billy could tell he wasn’t pleased that they were there but he was just gonna have to deal with it. Maybe this dinner was going to be interesting.

Steve and Gage take their guests into their formal dining room where a few servants were setting the table. “Billy, Max, these are my parents.”

As soon as they had come in from the kitchen, Max and Billy felt so out of place because they were severely underdressed. Here they were both in jeans, Billy had a white short sleeved button down while Max was wearing some kind of top she had.

Gage’s parents were very high school. Pearls, Tom Ford shoes, professionally tailored outfits to fit their bodies perfectly.

Oh yeah, Max and Billy were definitely out of place. But Steve’s future mother-in-law, Katherine looked past her guests’ attire and welcomed them into her home with open arms.

“Hello Max, Billy, I’m Gage’s mother Katherine but you can call me Kitty.” She tells them as they get settled at the table. “And this is my husband, Seth.”

“Hi, it’s very nice to meet you both.” Seth says and politely shakes their hands before taking his seat at the head of the table.

Before they started on their salad, Billy leaned over to his step-sister as she sipped her water. "This is gonna be something." He whispers and she nods agreeing with him.

Dinner was going great so far.

The food was good, they were having somewhat normal conversations, more so about Steve and Gage but it was going well all the way up until,

"You and Steve used to date right? At least that's what Gage has told us." Katherine asks which causes Steve to choke on his wine and Billy to choke on his water.

"Yes, we used to date but we are just friends and I have to say I'm glad he's found someone and that they're getting married. I'm happy for both of them." Billy states and Max knows he's lying through his teeth but doesn't say anything and silently eats her dinner.

"Tell us more about yourself Billy. I assume you're the same age as Steve here?" Brad asks with his wine in his hand.

"No, I'm actually twenty-two." He replies. "I was a year below Steve when we met."

"Oh I see. So do you work or go to school?"

"I work and go to school." He supplies them. "I've been taking online courses to get my degree so I can get a better job to support my family."

"Family?"

"Yeah, I have a daughter." He tells them and they seem more interested now. "She's three and I've been raising both her and Max on my own."

"Where are your parents?" Katherine asks.

"They passed away in a car wreck a few years back so it's just been the three of us ever since."

“Wow, so you took over the parenting role? That’s pretty brave and thoughtful of you.” Brad comments.

“Thank you.” Billy bows his head with a nod.

“Do you have any pictures of her?”

He nods again and takes out his phone showing them a picture of his daughter at the beach, building a sand castle with Max and has a huge smile on her face.

“Oh my goodness she’s adorable.” Katherine puts on her glasses and takes Billy’s phone with a smile on her face. She sees all the pictures of his daughter showing her husband, Steve, and Gage as well.

“So, I take it your daughter’s mother’s not in the picture then?” Brad asks.

“Excuse me?”

“Her mother. From what I can infer, she’s not in her life.”

“Oh, uh, yeah something like that.” Billy awkwardly adds and sends a quick glare to Max.

That got Steve thinking. He knew Billy had gotten pregnant from what he told him but maybe he left because he was pregnant and was left high and dry. Billy did tell him it was a one night stand. Maybe that was the case.

After that, Billy started to get uncomfortable and Steve could tell so he changed the subject and they got onto talking about the wedding.

By the end of the night, Billy was so ready to leave but he wasn’t just gonna up and go.

“Thank you for having Max and I over for dinner.” He says to Gage’s parents as they were all standing back in the foyer. “The food was delicious.”

“Thank you. Our chef has a way in the kitchen.” Katherine says with a smile.

“Well it was really good. I wish we could stay longer but I have to get Lily home and ready for bed.”

“Aww, she sounds like such a cutie. I hope to meet her one day soon.”

“Maybe.” Billy adds with a flat smile.

Afterwards, the two of them had gone and they were relieved they made it through alive. They retrieve Lily then head back home ready to start another week of work and school.

-Two Months Later-

Hey, are you free to meet for lunch today? -Steve

When Billy reads the text, he finds it odd because of how much Steve wants to meet with him.

He doesn't want to be rude so Billy decides to message him back.

Sure! Let me know the time and place :) -Billy

Once he sends it, he sighs and tosses his phone onto his bed. “Hey Max!” He calls.

“Yeah?”

“C'mere for a sec.”

He hears Max tell Lily to stay there then gets off her bed and pads across the hall to Billy's bedroom. “What's up?”

“So I just got another text from Steve and he wants to meet for lunch.” He tells her and she smirks.

“Oh, well I think someone's starting to get obsessed.” She states and leans against the doorframe. “That kid doesn't know what he wants. I mean don't you think it's a little weird how he keeps showing up places and wanting to do things with you. Like at the garage, the beach, the park, and your bi-weekly coffee dates? I'm surprised Gage is okay with all this, if I were him I'd be jealous and pissed.”

“Well I’m glad I’m not the only one who’s noticed how clingy Steve’s become.”

“Maybe he still has feelings for you after all.” She says with a shrug then returns to her room to finish painting Lily’s nails.

Billy doesn’t wait for a response from Steve and jumps in the shower so he can get ready.

It didn’t take him long to shower and get ready to meet Steve. He says bye to his daughter and Max before he leaves and decides to dabble on a bit of cologne because if Steve was getting clingy, mine as well as have fun with it.

When he got to the restaurant, Steve was already there waiting so he went over and sat down across from him.

As he settled in, he couldn’t help but notice that Steve had been crying. His face softens and he feels his heart break because he hated seeing Steve so upset.

“What happened?” He asks.

“Well,” Steve takes a deep breath and wipes away his fresh tears. “The reason I asked you to meet me is because I really need your advice.”

“Okay, for what?”

“My relationship.” Steve answers and just goes about explaining his dilemma. “We’ve been fighting a lot lately and I just can’t seem to get through to him.”

“Well what are you fighting about?”

“You’re gonna think it’s insane.” Steve laughs to cover up how he truly felt and Billy continues to look at him, waiting for him to go on. “He thinks I still have feelings for you.”

Billy sat back against the padded seat and let it sink in that maybe Max was right. Steve did still have feelings for him but was hiding them. “Do you?” He asks.

Steve tsks. “No.” He lies. “I love Gage.”

“Then make sure he knows that you love him.” Billy advises him. “I don’t want to be the one that comes between you but if he feels that way then tell him how it is that he’s the one you’re marrying and that you love him.”

“I do love him, Billy.” Steve sniffles as tears flow down his cheeks. “I love him so much.”

Billy can tell that Steve really did love the kid and was just confused all in his head. He felt bad that they hit this rut in their relationship but knew they were going to get through it.

“Look, don’t stress over this. It’s just a little bump in the road. You’ll both move on.”

Steve nods and takes a sip of his water. “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome.” Billy smiles and the two get onto ordering some food for themselves.

Later on in the night, much later in the night, Steve had a little too many glasses of wine and started to argue with Gage. At first it was just a simple question that Gage had asked.

“Were you with Billy again today?”

“Yeah. Why do you care?” Steve crudely replies.

“I was just wondering.” Gage says and sighs with an eye roll. “How come you’re always with him if you don’t like him?”

“He’s my friend, Gage!” He raised his voice and was getting mad that Gage was so interested in what he did with his friends, at least he thought he viewed Billy as a friend...more than a friend? “Why are you so worried about it?! Are you jealous?! Is that why?!”

Gage knew his fiance was already drunk and didn’t want to fight when he was in this state. “Steve, I don’t want to do this now so let’s just forget about it.”

"No!" Steve slammed his now empty wine glass down and it almost fell to the floor but it clumsily caught it. "Just admit it, you're jealous! You're jealous that he's back in my life!"

"Steve I am not jealous."

"Then what is it?!"

Gage harshly exhales through his nostrils and looks away from Steve. "It's about his daughter."

"Lily? You're jealous of a three year old? Seriously, Gage?"

"No, I am not jealous of a three year old!" Gage's voice boomed, now getting angry and aggravated. "Isn't it obvious she's yours?!"

Steve goes to say something but he doesn't because Gage had gotten him there. He stayed quiet.

"I mean don't you see it?! She acts like you sometimes, you both have the exact same smile, and she's three! Didn't you say Billy left you three years ago and you didn't know why?"

All these thoughts and questions were now piling into his clogged mind and he didn't know what to think.

"No." He mumbles under his breath. "He wouldn't....Billy wouldn't lie to me."

"Well I think you should wake up and realize you have a kid with him!"

"No!" He shouts and runs out of the house.

It takes Steve a few good tries to get the key into the ignition but once he gets it in, Gage was banging on his window.

"Steve, don't drive. You're drunk."

"I don't care!" He starts up his car and quickly leaves the driveway, skidding along the street as he flies down the road.

Across town, the Hargrove-Mayfield house was quiet. Everyone was asleep and the only sound that could be heard were the waves crashing down against the shore.

It was a little past midnight when a knock at the door woke Billy.

He groggily sat up in bed, unsure if he actually heard it or was just dreaming. He sits there for a few minutes then hears it again.

He pushes the blankets off him and opens his bedroom door, shuffling down the hall to the front of the house. He looks through the peephole and sighs. "What the hell." He opened the door and Steve stood on his porch all distraught.

"Steve? What's going on?" He asks, yawning.

"Is she mine?" Steve's quick to ask, looking at Billy through his hazy eyes.

"What?"

"Lily. Is she my daughter?" He asks again.

Billy can smell the alcohol on his breath and sighed. "Look you're drunk. You just need to lay down and get some rest. C'mon." Billy grabs Steve's arm and pulls him inside.

"NO!" Steve shouts and snatches his arm back.

They stand there across from each other, Steve heavily breathing while Billy just staring up, unsure of what to do.

Down the hall, Lily wakes up from the loud noise and comes out of her room. "Momma?"

Billy turns around and she comes over to him, rubbing her eyes with tiny fists. "Here, go see Auntie Max." He turns her around and sees his step-sister take the baby into her room while he goes to deal with Steve.

"Come inside and we'll talk." Billy tells him.

Steve follows his orders and goes with him to the living room. He sits on the couch and Billy goes to get him a water bottle and something to snack on to sober up.

Steve just sat there and didn't touch anything because he wanted answers. Billy sat beside him and folded his hands over his lap.

"Where do you want me to begin?" Billy asks.

"Just tell me if she's mine." Steve says.

"Yes." He nods his head. "She's yours."

Steve let it sink in. Gage was right, he and Billy did have a kid together and he didn't know about her.

"She was conceived a few weeks before we moved." Billy explains. "I found out I was pregnant and I was going to tell you because even though she was unplanned I knew you would be excited to be a daddy, you know." His small smile fades as he goes on. "But Neil found out and threatened that he'd have her taken away if I told you about her. So we moved and I...." He trails off as he choked up. "I couldn't risk losing my baby." He thickly swallows and Steve intently listens. "I'm sorry f-for not saying anything to you after that or even when they died. I've just been so used to it just being the three of us that I didn't want anything to change or you to take her away from me."

Steve was crying too and thought about what he was gonna say. "Does she...Does she know I'm her father?"

"No." Billy whimpers. "God I feel like such a bad parent for hiding this from her and from you."

Steve grabs Billy's hand and gives it a comforting squeeze. "From what I've seen you are a great parent, not only to Lily but to Max as well. I know that they both love you so much, Billy."

"Thank you." Billy exhales and rubs his hands along his face. "God look at us. Crying like a bunch of babies." He jokes and they both laugh at each other. "Look, why don't you get some rest and we'll talk more in the morning."

Steve nods and makes himself comfortable on the couch while Billy returns to his room.

The next morning Steve wakes up with a wicked headache. He groans when he opens his eyes and sees a small person standing in front of him.

It was Lily.

The little girl was tilting her head to the side, trying to figure out who this person was on her couch.

When she sees that he's awake she smiles at him. "I hungwy." She tells him, her little voice was adorable. "Momma 'til seeping. Canned yous mae me bweakfast pease?" She asks.

How could he say no?"

"Sure." Steve softly says and smiles. He gets up from the couch and follows his daughter into the kitchen to make her something to eat.

While him and Lily are busy making toaster waffles, Billy wakes up to the smell of coffee being made and heads down the hall to find them in the kitchen together, he smiles at the sight ahead of him feeling his heart flutter.

"What're you two doing?" He asks.

Lily runs to him with a giggle. "Mownin momma!" She greets and is picked up by her mother.

"G'morning sweet girl." He kisses her cheek and carries her over to where Steve was. "Are you helping Steve make breakfast?"

"Ya!" She exclaims and is put back down on the ground as she then proceeds to eat her waffles that Steve made her.

Billy gets himself a cup of coffee and waits until he has first sip to talk to Steve. Once the hot liquid had seeped down his throat, he was officially ready to start his day.

"How do you feel?" He asks.

“Like I’ve been hit by a bus.” Steve sighs and looks over at Lily as she ate her waffles. “But I also feel like I’m walking on the clouds because I’m watching our daughter eat right before my eyes.”

Billy smiles and feels warmth bubble in his belly. Steve watched her with fondness in his eyes. She was so beautiful and he couldn’t believe she was his.

The three of them eat breakfast together and it was nice having Steve there, spending time with his daughter even though she has no idea that he’s her father yet.

Unfortunately Steve doesn’t stay long and leaves after his cup of coffee.

He drove back to their Bel-Air condo and was relieved that Gage’s car remained in the driveway. He gathered himself before heading inside and calling out for him. “Gage? Baby?”

Steve can hear shuffling upstairs so he goes to their bedroom and finds that his fiancé has packed his things.

Steve crosses his arm over his chest. “Um, what are you doing?” He asks.

“I can’t do this anymore, Steve.” Gage doesn’t even look up at his fiancé. “I need to figure some things out and until I do, I think it’s best we just end it.”

“What?” Steve’s arms dropped to his sides and his brown eyes started to water. He marches over to Gage, who doesn’t even care to acknowledge Steve was upset about this. He just went on and zipped his bags, pulling them off the bed. “So that’s it then?”

Gage turns around with his bags in hand and sighs. “I’ll always love you and maybe we would’ve worked out in another life but not this one.” He turns back around then stops and twists his body again. “I would like for you to be gone before I get home later.”

After that Gage was gone.

Steve sat on the bed and sobbed into his hands. His fiancé just left

him. Just like that. He was gone.

Steve didn't want to just mope around so he packed what he could of his bags and loaded them into his car. Before he left, he took off his engagement ring and placed it on the dresser.

"What could've been." He sadly sighs and takes one last look around the room. A single tear rolls down his cheek and he flicks it away as he makes his way out of what he used to call his home.

Steve drives out of Bel-Air and checks into a hotel about ten minutes away from Billy's house. He contemplates calling Billy but doesn't want to get involved and make things worse so he just decides to use the next couple days as time for himself to heal and rethink everything.

-Few Weeks Later-

It's been a few weeks since that night and Billy hasn't heard from Steve.

Billy kind of expected this to happen with Steve. He'd find out he has a kid and run away.

So Billy just went about with his life because he had two kids to raise.

Tonight, they were going to have a movie night. Lily's been asking him if they can do a Disney movie marathon so he said yes and that was their plan. He ordered pizzas for them and they made a blanket fort in their living room.

They were all set.

When the doorbell went off, Billy got up to go get it assuming it was the pizza guy. He got his wallet ready to pay with cash and opened the door.

"Hey how's it...Steve?"

Steve stood there on his porch, sad like a lost puppy.

“He left me.” He quietly mutters.

“What?”

“Gage, he left me.”

“Oh Steve I’m so sorry.”

Steve sniffs and keeps his tear filled eyes on his ex. “I-I been trying to-to think ab-about everything and wrap my head around it and I know this is what I want and I want this more than anything and I-”

“Steve, you’re rambling.”

“Sorry.” He apologizes and just gets to the point. “I want to be a part of our daughter’s life.” He says. “If you’ll let me.”

Billy nods his head while exhaling through his nostrils. “Are you sure about this, Steve? Because I can’t stand to see my baby heart broken if she gets close with her father and he leaves her.”

“I’ve thought long and hard about this and I want this. I want to be with you and help you raise our daughter.” Steve smiles and grabs onto Billy’s hands. “All of us can be a family.”

Billy widely grins and brings Steve with him to the living room.

“Oh my god.” Steve’s eyes light up when he sees the blanket fort that was built in the living room. This is what he wanted to be a part of. This right here, having quality family time together.

“Lily, c’mere for a second baby.”

Lily crawls out from under the blankets and walks over to Billy. He pulls her onto his lap and holds her in his arms.

“Lily, you remember Steve right?” He asks the girl.

“Uh-huh.” She nods.

“Well, momma has something to tell you and it’s important that you listen okay?” She nods again giving Billy her full attention.

“Sweetheart, before you were born, momma and your daddy used to be together. We were in love and from that love we made you.” He tells her and boops her nose as she giggles. “But, momma was forced to leave your daddy so we couldn’t be together anymore.”

“Ha come momma?”

“It’s a long story baby. But what I’m trying to tell you is that your daddy came back.”

“Whered is he?”

“Well he’s right here.” He points to Steve and Lily looks at him. “Sweetheart Steve’s your daddy.”

Lily continues to look at her father then to her mother and back at her father. “Yous my daddy?” She asks him.

“Yeah.” Steve answers with a smile. “I’m your dad and I would love to get to know you more and be in your life, Lily.”

Her face lit up just like his and she smiled just like him. “Will youd stayed for da movie and piza?” She asks him in her tiny voice.

“I would love to.”

“Yay!” She jumps off Billy’s lap and they get cozy in the blanket fort.

Lily sat next to Steve the whole night as if they had known each other for years.

By the end of the night, Billy put Lily to bed and was now helping Steve clean the blankets up from their movie night.

“Did you have fun tonight?” Billy asks him.

“Yeah.” Steve exhales with a smile. “I had a great time. Thanks for letting me meet her. I hope that maybe they can arrange time for them to meet.”

“Yeah, I think she’d like that.”

“I’m also sorry for just showing up unannounced. I was uh, um.”

Steve was nervous.

Billy could tell because his voice shook as he spoke. "Are you sure you're okay?"

Steve takes a deep breath and raises his brows. "I guess I've done a bad job at hiding it."

"Hiding what? What's up?" Billy asks, watching Steve kinda ready to burst at the seams. "You can tell me anything, Steve."

"I know I can, I just..." Steve's heart sat in the back of his throat and his eyes met Billy's. "I love you Billy and I...I-I-I'm hoping you love me back or at least have some feeling for me? God I'm such an idiot!" He exclaims and starts to pace the living room. "My whole engagement was a joke because I was just filling the void of missing you and not being with the person I loved the most. Gage was great and I but I love you, I've always loved you but it's clear that you've moved on and aren't' in love with-Mmmpf."

Billy shuts Steve up with a kiss then pulls away after a few seconds.

Steve doesn't say anything and just kisses him again as the two make up for all the time they've missed over the last few years. They kiss all the way to Billy's bed and carry it on all night long. It was everything.

When Steve woke up the next morning it all felt like a dream. Maybe it was a dream?

He didn't really remember much.

He was starting to believe none of what happened was actually real, until he felt movement beside him under the sheets.

Billy woke up as well and moved onto his side, reaching an arm over Steve's bare torso. "Morning pretty boy."

Steve grins at his old nickname and turns onto his side so he was facing Billy.

Billy leans forward and gives Steve a good morning kiss.

It was warm and welcoming and made Steve feel safe.

When they pulled apart, Steve tried to cuddle with him but Billy slid out from his grip.

“Hang on, I gotta go to the bathroom.”

Billy runs to the bathroom and quickly does his business. He returns back to bed after washing his hands and cuddles with Steve.

During his short trip back to the bed, Steve could see his white stretch marks and wondered what it would’ve been like if he had known Billy was pregnant.

“How was it?”

“How was what?”

“Your pregnancy?” Steve asks.

“Well it wasn’t easy, I’ll tell you that much.” Billy sighs and Steve moves to rest his head over Billy’s chest. “I hated everything second of it but then again I’d do it just to have Lily in the end. She’s my whole world.”

“How did you come up with her name?”

“I named her after two of the greatest people I know. My mother and Max. Her full name is Lillian Maxine Hargrove.” Billy tells him and thinks back to when he chose her name. “After Susan and Neil died I only trusted Max to be with me, other than my aunt, but Max has been such a huge help to me and she was there from it through the whole pregnancy even when Lily was born.”

Billy knew that was when he had Max had started getting closer and became inseparable together. As bad as it is to say, they needed that release from their parents to have that close family bond.

“When I was in labor I almost knocked out the nurse when she tried to remove Max from the room and I wouldn’t let her.” He laughs. “I

was very mean and aggressive during the labor and delivery.”

“I would’ve been there to help you through it all.” Steve says as he licks his lips.

“I know.” Billy half smiles, looking deeply into Steve’s brown eyes. “I’m sorry for not telling you, I didn’t kn-”

Steve shushes him with another kiss. “I understand.” He breathes. “I would’ve done the same thing.”

They stay close and cozy in each other's arms before starting their day.

Billy gets Lily dressed for her day because she was going shopping with her Auntie Gigi and Max so Billy and Steve would have the house to themselves for the day.

Once Lily and Max leave, Billy joins Steve in the living room with two albums.

“What’re those?”

“These,” Billy holds them up in the air. “Are albums Max made for me to have as a keepsake for Lily.” He proceeds to open the first one and there were many Polaroids and sonograms and short prompts for Steve to look through. “She insisted we documented my pregnancy every week so she’d take a picture of my bump to show it’s growth and whatnot.”

They looked through the albums together and it brought back a lot of memories for Billy so good and some bad but his favorite was one Max took just minutes after Lily was born. She was lying on Billy’s chest still covered in blood and gunk but was settled on him as he tiredly smiled at her, crying.

“How did it feel? When they placed her on your chest once she was born.”

“It’s nothing like you can ever imagine bringing a life into the world. It was like the whole world disappeared and it was just us.” Billy tells him. “I do wish you were there and would do anything to go back in

time and make that happen.”

“Well, maybe in the future we can have another one together.” Steve assures him.

“I think we can make that work.” Billy agrees and they share a kiss then decide to spend the rest of the day cuddled on the couch watching rom-coms, just like they did when they used to date in high school.

Author's Note:

Hello everyone!!

First, I'd like to thank you for reading my series. It's been a hell of a ride but all good things must come to an end :(

JUST KIDDING!!

LOL!! I am not ending this just yet because I have a ton more ideas to publish but for now I'm going to take a break from posting to this series. I'm reaching the end of the semester so I want to focus on my work as well as writing for my other series for a bit, just to get back into it. Once KSHC is done then I'll have that out of the way to get back to this series, hopefully.

I will still be working on For You, Forever Ago because since it's like an actual story it's a lot easier to write so I can get that done in a breeze.

With that being said, I hope you all enjoyed this one-shot and I will see you sometime in May :)

Luv ya,

Liza <3